Abbreviations:

STPS	: Super Thermal Power Station
SEBs	: State Electricity Boards
EB	: Electricity Board
GRIDCO	: Grid Corporation of Orissa Limited
WR	: Western Region
SR	: Southern Region

Private participation in Coal Sector

261. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing demand for fuel (coal) to generate electricity in the country;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to extend power sector at much faster rate to meet the increasing demand of electricity;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open coal sector for private sector participation; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is an increasing demand for fuel (coal) to generate electricity in the country. The steps being taken/to be taken by the Government to expend power sector are (i) addition in new capacity through setting up of new power stations; (ii) adoption of energy conservation measures; and (iii) renovation and modernisation of old thermal and hydro power stations for improved electricity generation.

(c) and (d) Under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, coal mining was exclusively reserved for the public sector. By an amendment to the act in 1976, Government has inter-alia, allowed sub-lease for coal mining to private parties in isolated small pockets for captive mining not amenable to economic development and not requiring rail transport. In order to augment thermal power generation and to create additional thermal power capacity during the VIII Plan Period, Government allowed private participation in the power sector. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 amended with effect from June, 1993 allowed coal mining for captive consumption for generation of power, washing of coal and other end uses to be notified by the Government from time to time. The June, 1993 amendment applies to both the public sector as well as private sector companies desiring to mine coal for captive consumption. The restriction of captive mining does not apply to the State-owned coal and mineral development undertakings like CIL, SCCL, Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Mineral Development Corporations of the State Governments. The Government has also allowed non-captive coal mining in February, 1997.

Concession to Foreign Investors in Power Sector

262. DR. MOHAN DABU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of investment needs in the power sector during the next 10 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have failed to mobilise adequate foreign investment in the Power sector during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government is considering to extend further concession to foreign investors in Power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The

requirement of funds for the power sector in the Ninth Plan period of 1997—2002 has been assessed by the Working Group for power constituted by the Planning Commission.

(b) The total requirement for the Central and State Sector has been worked out at Rs. 264167 crores. The details are as under:—

	(Rs. Crores)
(i) Generation (including nuclear project) - Public Sector only.	117205
(ii) Transmission & Distribuion	113970
(iii) Renovation & Modernisation	10045
(iv) Rural Electrification	20400
(v) Others	2547
TOTAL	Rs. 264167 Crs.

It was assessed that Rs. 86845 crores would be required for Private Sector generation projects.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Transmission and Distribution Losses in State Electricity Boards

263. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of transmission and distribution losses incurred by the S.E.Bs., State-wise;

(b) the major factors responsible for these T & D losses; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to reduce T & D losses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Details regarding Transmission & Distribution Losses incurred by the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments (EDs) in given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The major factors responsible for high T&D losses are:

1. Weak and inadequate sub-transmission & distribution system. Inadequate investment in this sector over the years has led to the present system inadequacies.
2. Overloading of systems and poor voltage profile due to improper load management.
3. Low quality of construction and inadquate maintenance of equipment.
4. Over extended rural electrification programmes undertaken in the country resulting in long lines and extension of distribution network without strengthening the back-up transmission and sub-transmission system.
5. Unmetered supply to agricutural pumps and small domestic connections to weaker sections of the society in some States, resulting in the inability to assess consumption and losses in these sectors.
6. Pilferage and theft of energy.
7. Defective meters, meter reading errors, tampering of meters etc.

(c) Power distribution falls within the purview of State Government and it is the responsiblility of SEBs/EDs to take necessary steps for reduction of these losses. The utilities have been advised to improve their T&D system through short and long term measures, install capacitors for reactive compensation, carry out Energy audit to pinpoint system elements responsible for high losses. "Guidelines for reduction of T&D losses" and "Guidelines for conducting Energy audits" were issued to SEBs/EDs wherein the utilities were advised to conduct pilot studies to evolve optimum parameters for loading of different sizes of conductors, length of lines, distribution transformation capacities. Theft of electricity has been made a cognizable offence from August, 1986 under the amended provi-